

Washington State Learning First Alliance

- Accomplishments
- Objectives
- Strategies
- Next Steps

Action Plans



Developing common legislative agenda.



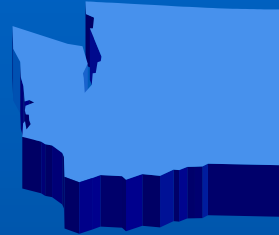
Preparing our students to meet 2008 graduation requirements.



Organizing a financial summit or another event to support quality education for Washington children.

WSLFA Efforts to Influence:

State Education Policy



Funding

Programs



Indicators of Success Influencing State Education Policy

Unified presence of WSLFA members:

- 1. Influenced the policy of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).**
- 2. Influenced OSPI response to NCLB state plan.**
- 3. Maintained focus on education reform.**

Indicators of Success Influencing State Education Policy (continued)

4. Simple majority passed – 1st time ever in the House of Representatives.
5. Cuts to education funding were less severe than cuts to other agencies.
6. Support for priorities remained strong across WSLFA.
7. School Academic Standards HB 2195 was approved.

Efforts to Influence Funding:

- Advocated for funding to support the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA)
- Supported finding additional funding sources for school facilities (increase area cost allowance).
- Individual WSLFA organizations lobbied for funding to support agreed upon WSLFA issues.
- Partnered with Washington Education Association to provide a Financial Summit.

Efforts to Influence Programs:

- Members stressed the need to review assessment system (CAA, WASL retakes, HB 2195, etc.).
- WSFLA members participated in thinking through revisions to NCLB requirements for Washington State.
- Members worked with Partnership for Learning and OSPI to provide communication on AYP:
 - Reached over 500 administrators.
 - 40+ reporters attended.
 - Presented in three areas of the state in August of 2003.

Indicators of Success with:



Policymakers



Practitioners



Parents

Indicators of Success with Policymakers

- Shared WSLFA's common agenda.
- WSLFA known as a clearinghouse/
resource/forum for policymakers to seek
input.
- WSLFA organizations influenced national
level LFA through parent organizations
(ASCD, AASA, etc.).

Indicators of Success with Practitioners

Shared representation/influence across the WSLFA membership:

- **WEA** – voice of teaching staff heard.
- **AWSP** – voice of building administrators heard.
- **WASA** – voice of district administrators heard.
- **WASC** – voice of students heard.
- **WACTE** – voice of colleges of education heard.
- **WSSDA** – voice of school boards heard.
- **SBCTC** – voice of higher education policymakers heard.

Indicators of Success with Parents

- WSLFA member organizations supported Partnership for Learning as they developed the Class of 2008 campaign – statewide presentations, breakout sessions at conferences; letters sent to school administrators, middle school teachers, and parents of 8th graders.
- WSLFA member organization PTSA provided parent conferences/information sessions.
- Information about Washington Assessment of Student Learning provided in Spanish and English.

Indicators of Success:

Systemic Improvement

Specific Districts

1. AWSP, a WSLFA member organization, received a grant to train principals in 52 Eastern Washington districts.
2. National LFA materials were used across the state by districts in trainings, study and workshops.
3. Resources to meet specific needs (publications on Achievement Gap, Class of 2008) were used across the state.

Indicators of Success:

WSLFA Membership

- 1. Influence through common voice, collective visibility.**
- 2. Became recognized as a reliable resource for media—contacted to share information.**
- 3. Established trust between members allows WSLFA to tackle more complex issues.**

What National Alliance Materials Have We Used?

- **AYP communication publications.**
- **Study of successful school district, *Beyond Islands of Excellence*.**

How:

- **Used as resource in statewide release of data.**
- **Adapted AYP for statewide communication tool—personalized information.**
- **Publicized reports availability.**
- **Created key points summary.**

Support Needed from National Alliance...

- **Convene opportunities to showcase and share across the nation examples of existing systems of accountability working to meet the stated intent of NCLB.**
- **Address the issues that need to be revised in the NCLB rules.**

WSLFA Next Steps

New Objectives/Goals

- Encourage non-participating school districts to participate in Class of 2008 campaign.
- Encourage Legislature in 2005 to adequately fund HB 2195.
- Re-enlist involvement of Governor's Office in WSLFA.
- Share with federal government to influence NCLB changes.
- Work toward closing the Achievement Gap by:
 - Helping disseminate best practices.
 - Helping disseminate case examples of success.

WSLFA Website

- WSLFA website is hosted and maintained by the Washington State Board of Education.
- Link:
<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/WSLF/wslfa.htm>